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Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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Conserving, Enhancing and Protecting Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoors Heritage since 1937.



October 10, 2013

The Honorable Goeff Hansen
Chair of the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee
420 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Hansen and committee members:

On behalf of Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC), I am writing to express our support of the ATV definition change proposed in SB 68.

When Polaris Industries first explored the idea of updating Michigan's ATV definition, representatives contacted us and other stakeholders in Michigan about the need to update the ATV definition and establish a new definition for recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs).

We have supported this issue from the very beginning, and over the past 18 months, we have had frequent communication with Polaris representatives. In addition, I have spoken with Polaris representatives about this issue regularly in my capacity as a member of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW). An important component of this legislation for our members is that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources still has the ability to designate trails and routes where these ORV's are allowed to ride, which helps to protect the natural resources and reduce conflicts among users.

SB 68 would modernize Michigan's ATV definition and allow manufacturers to respond to consumer demand for innovative vehicles, including side-by-side models, which have become increasingly popular in Michigan. SB 68 would allow popular 50" side-by-side vehicles to be legally ridden on standard ATV trails, increasing the public's accessibility to Michigan's outdoors and allowing hunters and trappers of all abilities to haul their gear in and bring game out of the woods.

As the largest statewide conservation organization in the country, MUCC represents tens of thousands of members who are concerned about protecting Michigan's natural resources. Our

mission has remained the same since we were founded – to protect Michigan’s outdoor heritage and ensure that our great outdoors remain great.

We believe that passage of SB 68 would enhance Michigan’s premier trail system and increase accessibility to the outdoors for everyone, and we support this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Trotter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Amy Trotter
Resource Policy Manager
Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Cc: Senator Dave Hildenbrand
Senator Arlan Meekhof
Senator Tom Casperson
Senator John Moolenaar
Senator Coleman Young II
Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood